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LETTER DATED 1 FEBRUARY 1995 FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to refer to my report of 25 January to the Security Council on the problem of security in the Rwandese refugee camps (S/1995/65). In paragraphs 37 and 38 of the report, I indicated, inter alia, that the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) would follow up with the Government of Zaire on the discussions held by my Special Representative for Rwanda, Mr. Shaharyar Khan, with a view to concluding appropriate arrangements to enhance security in the camps, in the framework of UNHCR's mandate for refugee protection and humanitarian assistance. I also mentioned that UNHCR had dispatched to Kinshasa for this purpose a Special Envoy for Rwanda and Burundi and that I would keep the Security Council informed of progress made in this regard.

In this connection, I should like to advise the members of the Council that, on 27 January 1995, the Zairian Ministers of Defence and Justice and the UNHCR Special Envoy signed an aide-memoire outlining specific measures aimed at improving the security situation in the camps. Under this agreement, the Government of Zaire is to deploy 1,500 experienced military and police security personnel to the camps in the Goma region, north of Lake Kivu, and in the Bukavu and Uvira regions, south of Lake Kivu. These personnel will assist in the maintenance of law and order in the camps; take measures to prevent violence against and intimidation of refugees; provide protection for relief workers and for the storage and delivery of humanitarian assistance; and escort to the border of Rwanda those refugees who have voluntarily chosen to return to their homes. In accordance with its mandate, the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR) would provide assistance in escorting the repatriated refugees to their home communities. The Government of Zaire has assured UNHCR of its full cooperation, at both the national and the local levels, in this endeavour. It has agreed to develop its concept of operations in cooperation with UNHCR, and to put in place mechanisms that would ensure full consultation with UNHCR on all matters related to security in the camps.

UNHCR, for its part, will establish a liaison support group, composed of experienced security advisers, who will be deployed at its field offices in Goma and Bukavu. These personnel will ensure liaison between UNHCR and the

commanders of the Zairian security units. They will also provide technical advice to the Zairian units on measures to enhance security in the camps. To the extent that voluntary contributions are made available, UNHCR will provide to the local security units some financial and logistic support, including transportation and communication equipment. The provision of this assistance will be managed through the UNHCR Liaison Support Group.

It is expected that the implementation of the programme will begin immediately. While UNHCR will provide resources to initiate the programme, it is estimated that the first phase of this programme would last five months, from February to June, and that it would cost approximately $13 million, for which UNHCR will seek contributions from Member States, either in cash or in kind. Thereafter, resource requirements will be reviewed every three months and additional contributions required will be sought from Member States.

I wish to take this opportunity to reiterate my hope that Member States will contribute generously to this programme, through UNHCR, so that it can be implemented in an effective manner and thereby create conditions conducive to the voluntary repatriation of the refugees to Rwanda. I also hope that the international community will provide the resources needed to strengthen the efforts undertaken by the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania, also in cooperation with UNHCR, to ensure adequate security in the refugee camps located in that country. UNAMIR will coordinate closely with UNHCR to facilitate the repatriation process, and my Special Representative for Rwanda will continue to have overall responsibility for all matters relating to the efforts of the United Nations system to assist in the restoration of peace and stability in that country.

I should be grateful if you would bring the contents of the present letter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(Signed) Boutros BOUTROS-GHALI